

Appl. No.: 09/539,918
Amdt. dated: December 17, 2003
Reply to Office action of: July 18, 2003

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In the office action dated July 18, 2003, claims 1, 3, 8, 11, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Reinsch (US 5,565,933). Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang et al. (US 6,304,302 B1). Claims 4, 6, 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang et al. (US 6,304,302 B1) and further in view of Huang et al. (US 6,309,071 B1). Claims 17, 18 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang et al. (US 6,304,302 B1). Claims 20 and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang and Hashizume (US 6,089,718).

Claims 1, 3, 8, 11, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Reinsch (US 5,565,933). Claim 1 has been amended herein to further distinguish from Reinsch by adding language indicating that "said light of said first wavelength range and said second wavelength range are transmitted through said system simultaneously." Accordingly, claim one describes a system that allows the transmission of light that has been segregated into distinct wavelength ranges to be processed simultaneously. Reinsch teaches a single channel system wherein multiple color channels alternate in time on a single image generating device thereby diminishing the brightness of the display and creating the need for timing devices to coordinate color channel changes. Claim 1, as amended herein, is now distinct from the teachings in Reinsch. Claims 3, 8, 11 and 13-15 are dependent claims depending on claim 1 and, therefore, contain the novel limitations found in claim 1.

Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang et al. (US 6,304,302 B1). Reinsch in combination with J. Huang teach a projection system wherein white light passes through a double-dove prism containing an optical film which acts as a polarized beam splitter (PBS) for blue light and acts as a dichroic mirror for red and green light. This mechanism allows blue light of "p" polarization to pass

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through the optical film and be redirected by a mirror while red, green and "s" polarized blue light are reflected by the film. The red, green and "s" polarized blue light are reflected into a PBS at a first location while the "p" polarized blue light is directed into the PBS at a second location. A second optical film acts as a PBS for red and green light and acts as a dichroic mirror for blue light. However, none of the elements of J. Huang perform the function of rotating a first color channel (or wavelength range) while allowing another color channel to pass through the element unchanged as claimed in claim 1. Claims 4, 6, 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang et al. (US 6,304,302 B1) and further in view of Huang et al. (US 6,309,071 B1). Claims 4, 6, 10 and 16 are dependent claims depending on Claim 1, which is distinct from Reinsch in combination with J. Huang for the reasons stated in the preceding paragraph. Huang et al. (US 6,309,071) is an improper reference as it was, at the time of invention, commonly owned by Sharp Laboratories of America, Inc. to which the inventors of the present application have an obligation to assign. The following statement shall serve as a formal statement of common ownership:

Statement of Common Ownership

The present application and U.S. Patent Number 6,309,071 were, at the time the present invention was made, under common ownership of or under obligation to assign to Sharp Laboratories of America, Inc.

Claims 17, 18 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang et al. (US 6,304,302 B1). Claim 17 and claims 18 and 21-24, which are dependent on claim 17 have been amended to more particularly point out the wavelength-selective color component rotator in this claimed embodiment. This element is not found in the cited references.

Claims 20 and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of J. Huang and Hashizume (US 6,089,718). Claims 20 and

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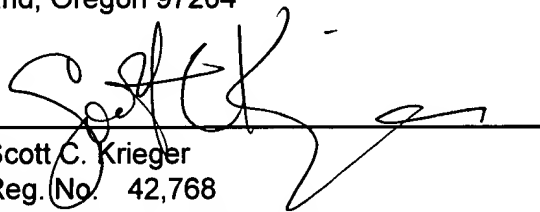
25-31 are dependent on Claim 17, which, as amended, now contains the wavelength-selective color component rotator not found in the cited references.

Claims 32-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinsch in view of Hashizume (US 6,089,718). Claim 32, as amended, and claims 33-43, which are dependent on claim 32 comprise the method step of changing the polarization state of a color component relative to another color component while both components are in the same beam. Neither Reinsch nor Hashizume teach any methods that contain this step.

The applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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